

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of March 11, 2004. Cancellation of claims 73 - 86 is requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-72 stand allowed.

Claims 73-86 stand rejected as being substantially duplicative of dependent claims 6, 13, 17, 22, 28, 33, 38, 44, 48, 54, 58, 63, 66, and 72. A telephone conversation with Examiner Sung on April 12, 2004 confirmed that a prior objection to claim numbers 77 and 81 was not withdrawn in the most recent office action.

The Present Amendment

The present amendment cancels the claims to which the Examiner objected. Such cancellation is undertaken as a step to comply with formalities and should not be interpreted as an admission that the cancelled claims are substantial duplicates of allowed claims. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's determination that claims 73 - 86 are substantial duplicates of earlier allowed claims.

Claims 12, 20, 22, 31, and 44 have been amended to correct obvious typographical errors. Applicants do not believe such changes affect the scope of the claims nor is any such change in scope intended.

Telephone Interview

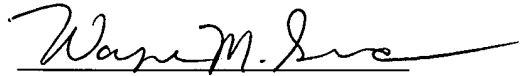
If the Examiner is not convinced that the present application is completely and fully in condition for allowance, it is requested that she telephone the undersigned Wayne M. Serra at (440) 483-2373 to receive authorization to make any amendments which remain necessary by Examiner's Amendment.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that claims 1 - 72 distinguish patentably over the references of record and meet all statutory requirements. Applicants do not believe any fee is due with this response, however, if necessary, the Office is authorized and requested to charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Date: April 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne M. Serra
Reg. No. 51,138
Philips Medical Systems (Cleveland), Inc.
595 Miner Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44143
(440) 483-2373